them have been permitted to invest up to 100% foreign equity in high-priority areas and in other industries like hotel and tourism related industries, hospitals, advance diagnostic centres, shipping, export oriented deep sea fishing industries, oil exploration and real estate & housing sector.

The Government also constantly reviews the policy relating to NRI investment with a view to making it competitive and provide adequate incentives and facilities to NRIs as a whole.

The State Governments, including Gujarat, formulate their own incentive schemes and infrastructural facilities for attracting foreign and NRI investment in their state and review the same from time to time. However, for the development of backward areas, Government is operating Growth Centre Scheme, Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme and Transport Subsity Scheme, for attracting investment.

Status of J&K in Foreign Maps

187. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the maps of foreign countries Jammu and Kashmir is not shown as a part of India;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereon; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (c) All instances of incorrect depiction of the map of India, including of the state of Jammu & Kashmir, which are brought to Government's notice, are taken up with the concerned authorities.

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद् के संगठनात्मक ढांचे में परिवर्तन

188. **चौ० हरमोहन सिंह यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद् के संगठनात्मक ढांचे में परिवर्तन करने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) नई गतिविधियों पर निर्भर करते हुए भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद के संगठनात्मक ढांचे की, जैसा कि इसके संविधान में परिभाषित किया गया है, समीक्षा की जाती है और शासी निकाय तथा भा० सां० सं० प० की महासभा द्वारा सुझाए गए परिवर्तनों को स्वीकार किया जाता है।

(ख) इस प्रकार परिषद ने हाल ही में जोहानसबर्ग, डरबन और कोलंबो में अपने नए सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोले हैं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Reaction of neighbouring countries to Nuclear Tests

189. SHRI GUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted three underground nuclear test at the Pokhran range in Rajasthan on 11 May, 1998;

(b) if, so the reaction of the neighbouring countries to these tests;

(c) the salient features of the proposed tests; and

(d) to what extent the security of the country would be strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan's reaction has been strongly critical "condemning" India's decision; Pakistan has sought to generate international propaganda against India on

this issue. Some other neighbouring countries have officially expressed concern over missile and nuclear weapon proliferation in the region and reiterated their commitment to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

(c) The three tests conducted on 11 May were with a fission device with a yield of 12 kilo tonnes (kT), a thermonuclear device with a yield of about 43 kT and a sub-kilo tonne device.

(d) India now has a credible nuclear deterrent and these tests provide an assurance to the Indian people that Government would attach the highest priority to addressing India's security concerns.

Offer made by American Special Envoy on Nuclear Cooperation

190. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the US-team in April this year, following the Pak-test of Ghauri-missile, the American special envoy had indicated that the US was open to the idea of revival of nuclear cooperation for peaceful purposes; and

(b) if so, what was the precise stand taken by the US team and what headway has since been made in that direction for reviving such cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) India and the United States have been engaged in a wide-ranging dialogue on bilateral, regional and global issues intended to broaden and deepen our mutually beneficial relations and identify areas of cooperation. Cooperation in some areas of science and technology including nuclear power generation have been discussed in a preliminary way as part of this wise-ranging dialogue. Nuclear cooperation, however, did not come up for discussion during the special envoy's visit in April, 1998.

Response to UN Secretary-General efforts to establish a Multipolar World

191. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has extended full support to UN Secretary-General in his efforts in establishing a multi-polar world to bring about global peace and development; and

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken by him in that direction, and Government's response thereto during the past six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) The UN Secretary-General has proposed a reforms package to revitalise the UN. The Government has welcomed the UN Secretary-General's efforts in this direction and is actively participating in the discussions underway in the General Assembly on these proposals with the objective of making the UN more responsive to the concerns of the majority of its member countries viz. the developing countries.

Racket in Issuance of Passport

192. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Express Newsline section of the Indian Express dated 9th April, 1998, under the caption 'Psst...Want a Passport? Rs. 17000 please'; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction to the touts' operation and alleged involvement of the policemen and the passport office employees in offering the passport to anyone without any verification and proper documents but for a price?